

U.S. postmaster pledges mission to curb violence

4-24-95
By MARVIN RUNYON

Not long ago while in the airport of a major American city, I saw a news broadcast about the shooting of a student at a local high school. Moments later, the scene shifted to another schoolyard and another shooting. Followed by a third shooting at a third school.

In all, three shootings in one day, two actually inside the schools themselves, and two dead children. How many grieving parents, relatives and friends there were, we will never know. But a little bit of each one of us died in the school halls that day.

There is something terribly wrong here. What may be worse, if I had not chanced to see the reports while waiting for my flight, I would never have heard about them at all because violent events like these have become so commonplace in our society that they merit little attention outside the local broadcast area.

Something is terribly wrong about that. Over the last decade, senseless violence of this kind has touched us all. Perhaps because the Postal Service is a national institution that serves every home and business in the country, postal tragedies became a focal point for the national tragedy of violence — so much so, that the Center of Disease Control investigated to see if the postal workplace was especially dangerous. They found out it was not. In fact, it was safer; more than two and a half times safer from risk of death, than the average American workplace.

We are glad that the facts are helping dispel the myth in the media and the public mind of postal violence. But the truth is that violence, itself, is a fact in our society. It is a painful, costly, and debilitating disease that destroys lives, alters lifestyles and brings into question our commitment to the fundamental freedoms that have made this nation great — the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

this nation's social fabric, a trusted friend in every American community, and the largest civilian employer in the nation, the Postal Service is determined to take a leading role in that effort.

In December 1993, the Postal Service hosted a national symposium on violence in the workplace. The lessons we learned have been applied within the Postal Service, and shared with other businesses and government agencies.

At the national level, our committee on workplace behavior is developing strategies for improving the safety and quality of the work environment. Our employee assistance program provides third-party counseling and advice to employees in need. And our 24-hour employee hotline

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and national crisis intervention team provide quick responses to emergency situations, large and small.

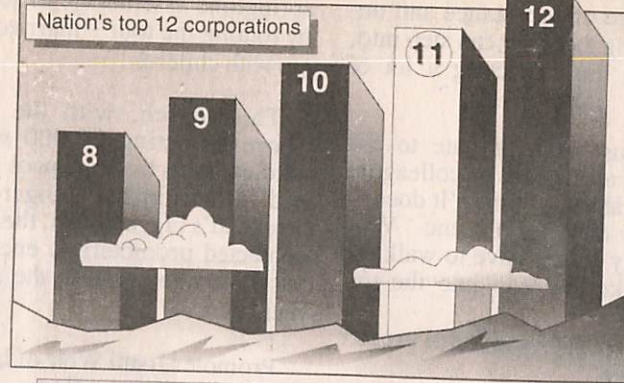
Clearly, the Postal Service cannot solve this problem by itself. Violence is a national crisis, not a postal one. But we can use our reach and position to lead the healing process. I have pledged the authority of my office to promote safety not only in the Postal Service, but in every factory, office and business in this nation.

The Postal Service is committed to this cause and to the security and well-being of every working person in the country. We look forward to working with the people of this nation to achieve that goal.

So let the word go out: America is united on this issue. We will not stand by and let violence terrorize our workplaces and weaken our society. Come what may, we will persist ... and we will prevail.

Annual Revenues:

With an annual revenue at \$55 billion, if listed in the Fortune 500 the Postal Service would be the nation's 11th largest corporation.



*The postal budget is roughly one percent of the total U.S. economy.

Source: United States Postal Service

7-21-95
Graphic by James Havens

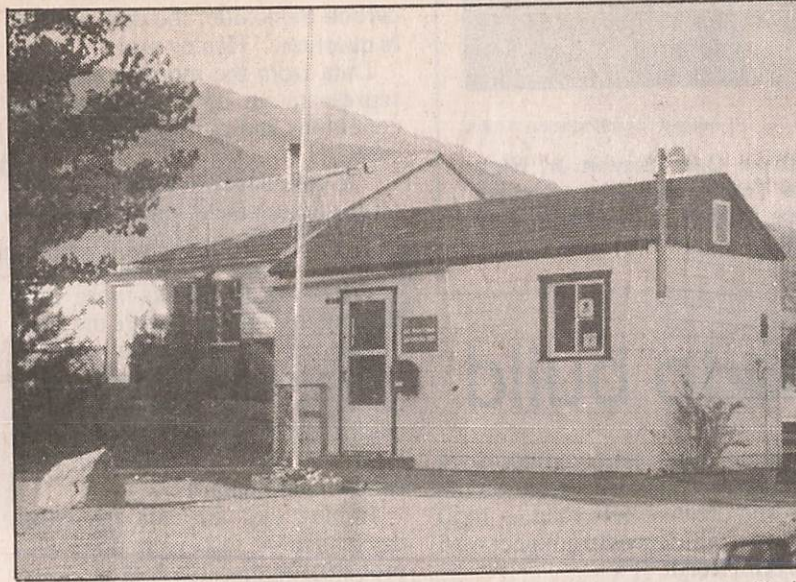
Fate of Cedar Fort Post Office remains up in the air

By CATHY ALLRED
Special to The Daily Herald

People escape from the rat race of the city by moving to the slower pace of the country. But it seems even the slow pace of the country is nothing compared to the snail's pace of the United States Post Office's departmental procedures.

It has been over a year since the controversy over the Cedar Fort City Post Office began. The U.S. Postal Service notified Cedar Fort officials in March of this year that the U.S. Post Office in Salt Lake City intended to begin closing procedures of the small-town post office.

In October, the city received a posted official proposal reiterating the message given in March. Now citizens of the country community have approximately one month left to "respond to Salt



Daily Herald photo/Cathy Allred

The Cedar Fort Post Office is being closed down. What will happen with postal service in the small Utah County town is still up in the air.

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Lake and make their feelings known."

After the 60-day period is up, the Salt Lake City administrators will send their final decision to Washington for final approval. If approved, it will be yet one more year before the change is made.

The official proposal or "docket" recommends replacing the present post office with a "contract" post office.

"The fall from official post office status will make a significant difference," explains Cedar Fort Mayor Howard Anderson. "The post office will be contracted out and the contract is awarded for four-year periods."

Community concerns are quality of service and accessibility. A contract office would be run out of a resident's home. The building would have to have separate bathrooms and wheelchair accessibility.